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UN FORCES ABANDON SEOUL

Orderly Withdrawal Carried Out To The South

COMMENT

Mr. Dean Acheson's inspiring words, delivered in a radio interview, on the sources of strength of the United States, are a fitting answer to the defeatists and isolationists whose voice is being heard in the land.

Mr. Acheson issues a timely corrective to those prophets of doom who believe Communist expansion to be unstoppable. This belief that nothing can check its march is a potent element in American isolationism and, incidentally, in the defeatism so prevalent on the Continent of Europe.

Despotism, when looked at from without, seems solid and formidable, while free societies look divided and weak. This is a form of optical illusion.

The grave internal weakness within the captive world, the precarious power of despots who have systematically destroyed the individual initiative of their people—these are facts which must encourage our hope of escaping war, or of winning it if it comes. By its very nature the Communist regime contains the seeds of its eventual self-destruction but to rely passively on the self-destruction of the Communist empire would be perilous, even more perilous than to place our trust in the deterrent power of the free world's vast military potential without translating that potential into fact.

In spite of the allegations of the Communist propagandists and their friends no aggressive action will be taken by the West. But austerity, exertion and self-sacrifices are indispensable—for the one practicable safeguard against war, or the ensuring of victory should war be forced on us—is to re-establish a balance of power.

The policy of the West of equipping itself to this end need not conflict with the continued search for a political settlement which must and will be most earnestly pursued.

The lesson has been learnt that to negotiate with Russia from weakness is useless. The outlook for a settlement will be improved if Russia knows that we need not fear her.

British 29th Brigade In Action Against Reds

Tokyo, Jan. 3.

Seoul has been abandoned by United Nations forces, it was announced here today. The United Nations forces pulled out to the south as Communist troops fought their way in from the north.

Earlier the United Nations forces fiercely battled the advancing Communists on the northern outskirts of Seoul as the South Korean capital went up in flames from fires lit by fleeing citizens.

Crashing gunfire from the United Nations fleet lying off Inchon, the port of Seoul, backed up the defenders.

The South Korean President, Dr Syngman Rhee, and his Government leaders led the flight from their capital and reached Pusan, the chief United Nations supply port yesterday (Wednesday).

The civilian population were in mass flight.

The spearheads of 300,000 Chinese Communists and North Koreans battled with the U.N. forces in the northern suburbs of Seoul. They made a sweeping encircling movement after their New Year lunge across the 38th Parallel.

All along the United Nations line withdrawals continued under heavy pressure, a United States Eighth Army spokesman said tonight.

Plunging across minefields and through barbed-wire defences, the Communists overran some American advanced positions to batter the defence are directly north of the capital.

With 10,000 Communists driving directly on Seoul, hundreds of thousands were sweeping down the mountainous spine of central Korea.

Kapuyong and Chunchon, key highway and railway cities 13 and nine miles south of the Parallel, were believed to be in Communist hands, an Army briefing officer said here.

BRITISH ENGAGED

These towns, on a road dropping down to Seoul from the hills to the northeast, were reported abandoned by United Nations forces yesterday.

In the east central sector, Chinese Communist troops had been definitely identified in combat, this officer said.

A United States Eighth Army spokesman said that the Chinese Communists had hurled seven Army corps into the offensive and more were on the way to reinforce them.

Punishing air attacks and dogged resistance failed to stem the tide of the Communists in the three-pronged drive on Seoul.

A British Commonwealth company was reported to be fighting its way out of encirclement by Chinese Communist troops.

But spokesmen in Tokyo and at the Eighth Army Headquarters said that they had no knowledge of a report that the Communists had driven a wedge between the British 29th Brigade and an American division.

The British 29th Brigade group went into action against the Communists today for the first time after two months in Korea.

The Brigade was strongly attacked at dawn about seven miles north of Seoul by small Communist forces which overran their forward positions.

A few hours after they had re-established their lines the British battalion were told to retreat.

Their bitterness was openly expressed by one young com-

pany commander who said, "I lost several men in today's counter-attack. Their sacrifice seems rather futile when we

(Continued on Page 8, Col. 3)

SOS FROM P AND O FREIGHTER

Seattle, Jan. 3.

The 11,000-ton British freighter Palana flashed a distress signal today, reporting that she had struck a reef and was sinking off the coast of Australia.

Coast Guard Headquarters here said the distress signal, received at its station in Ketchikan, Alaska, gave the ship's position as five miles northwest of Peak Island in the Percy group.

Earlier, the Coast Guard said a bearing taken at Guam had fixed the source of the signal at Pine Peak in the Samoan Islands. Coast Guard Headquarters in New York found Pine Peak Island in the charts of Australian waters and a second signal received from the Palana at Ketchikan confirmed that was the island.

The Merchants Exchange in Vancouver, British Columbia, reported that the Palana left her home port of London on Oct. 10 and arrived at Melbourne on Nov. 16. The vessel was scheduled to leave Melbourne for Brisbane sometime after Nov. 16.

The Palana was listed as 532 feet long and described as an oil burner. She is owned by the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, London.—United Press.

Envoys Called To State Dept.

Washington, Jan. 3.

The State Department announced today that Mr. Dean Acheson, the Secretary of State, had called in the British and French Ambassadors for discussions at 9.00 p.m. GMT tonight.

The announcement said that Mr. William Thorp, the Assistant Secretary of State for Economic Affairs would attend the conference. The subject matter was not disclosed.—Reuter.

ATTLEE'S APPEAL

TO MINERS Grave Fuel Crisis

London, Jan. 3.

The Government today appealed to coalminers to stave off a nation-wide fuel crisis by producing an extra 3,000,000 tons of coal by the end of April.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Clement Attlee, and three of his Ministers held an urgent 95-minute conference with 27 leaders of the miners.

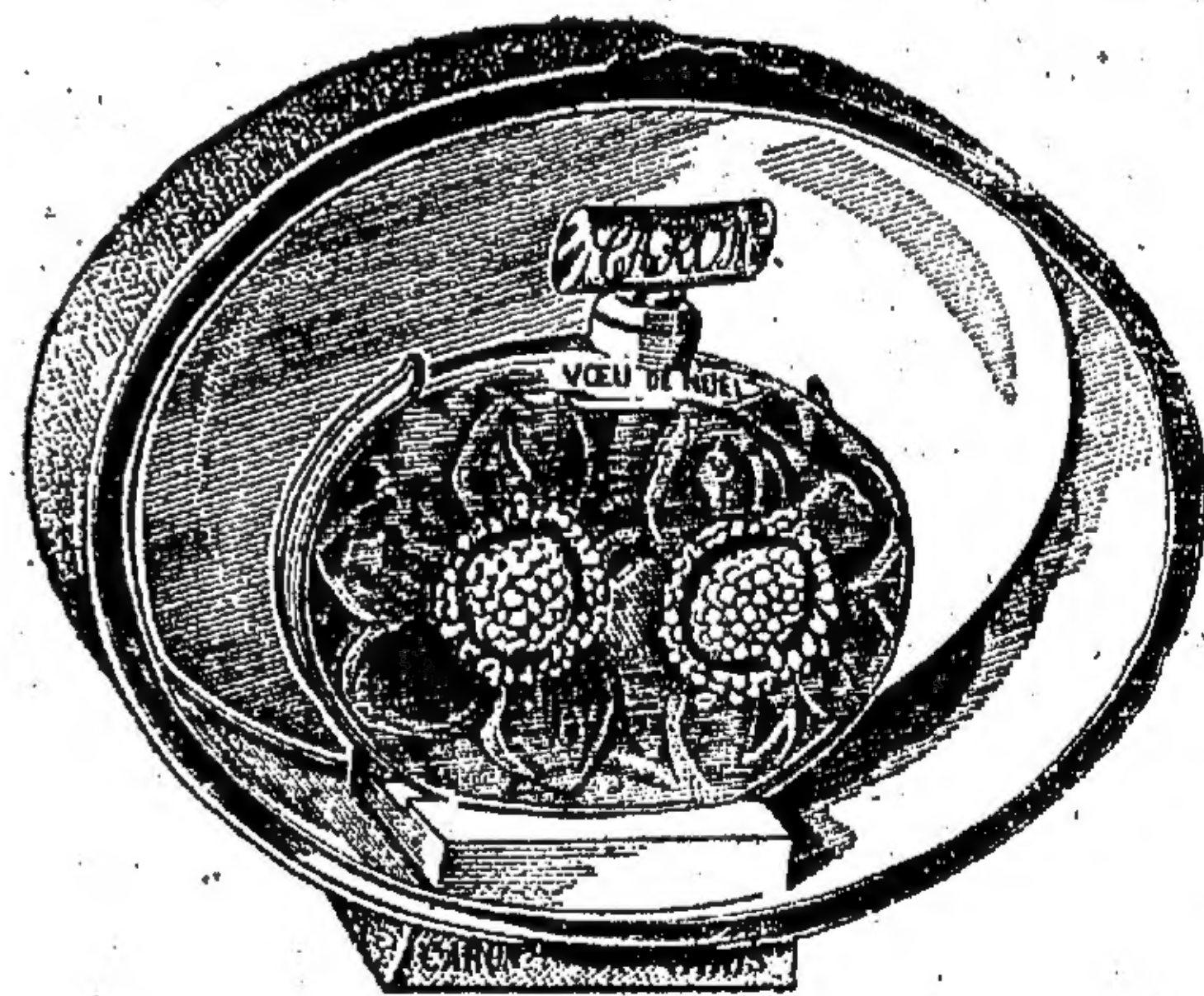
Afterwards a statement was issued telling of the Government's appeal and adding that the miners' representatives had promised full co-operation.

Today's crisis talks arose from the plight caused by Britain's dwindling coal stocks and the severe winter weather threatening a transport hold-up of supplies to homes and industry.

With Mr. Attlee at today's meeting were the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Ernest Bevin, Mr. Hugh Gaitskell, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Philip Noel-Baker, the Fuel Minister, and the Colonial Secretary, Mr. James Griffiths, who is a miners' leader.

Mr. Arthur Horner, the Communist Secretary of the Mineworkers Union was among the miners' leaders at the meeting.

Mr. Attlee made a 10-minute speech on the gravity of the fuel crisis and the necessity for quick and effective action. It is believed that he told the union officials that a repetition of the 1947 fuel crisis might mean the downfall of the Labour Government.—Reuter.



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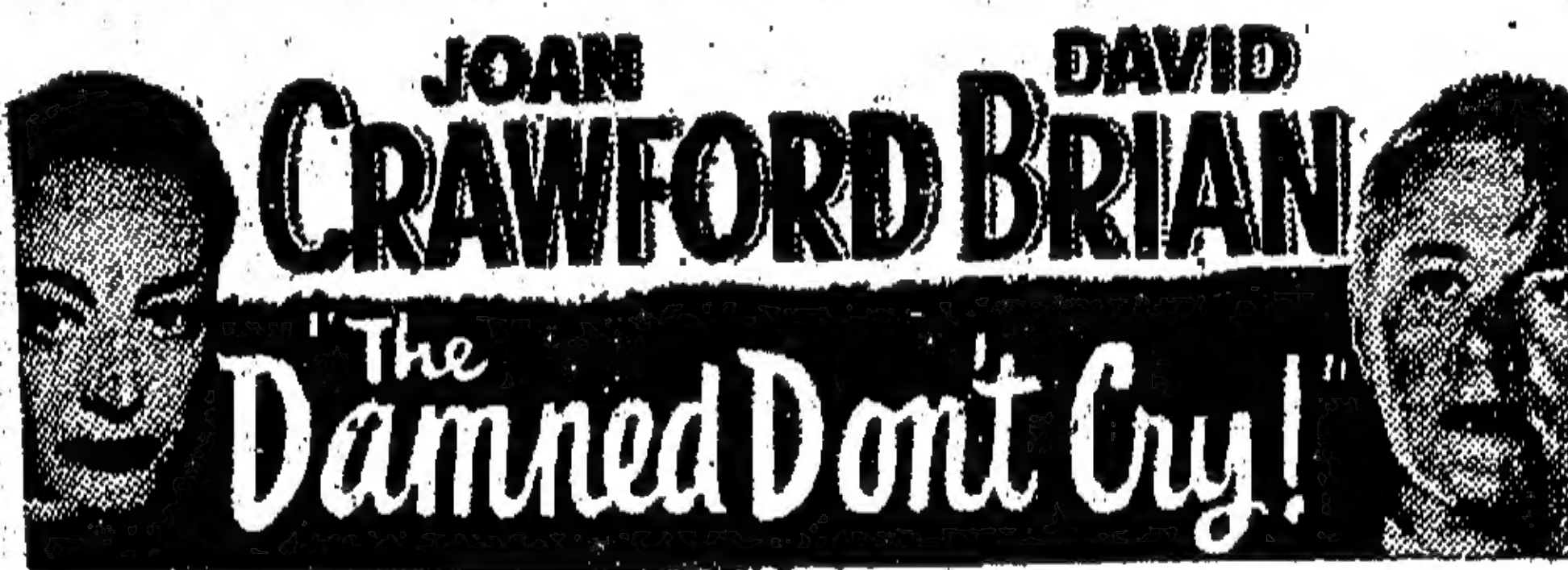
Holders of stub-tickets for "Treasure Island" are cordially invited to participate in a guessing competition—guess the number of "gold coins" contained in the boxes which will be exhibited at the lobbies of King's and Majestic beginning to-day! The first ten nearest guessers will be presented with seasonal awards varying from a Washing Machine donated by Besco Corporation, Radio donated by Elephant Radio Co., and other consolation prizes. For details please see announcement at the lobbies of King's & Majestic.

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A British experimental rocket is shown at the moment of launching from a site in Britain. This is the first photograph of the experiments to be released. It is known that the rocket is 20 feet long and 17 inches in diameter but other details remain secret. — Central Press.

AMERICAN TROOPS WILL CONTINUE THE FIGHT IN KOREA—AUSTIN

Lake Success, Jan. 3.

Mr Warren Austin (United States) told the United Nations General Assembly's Political Committee today that American troops would fight on in Korea.

"The United Nations must show that they are united against aggression and will resist it," he declared.

But he added that the United Nations should continue attempts to achieve their objectives in Korea by peaceful means.

Mr Austin spoke after the United Nations cease-fire group had reported to the Committee that it had failed to negotiate a cease-fire with the Chinese Communists in Korea.

The Committee adjourned until Friday to permit members to consult on the next steps to be taken following the cease-fire group's failure.

Mr Austin, speaking on the report of the cease-fire group, said, "The Chinese Communist regime has indicated its attitude towards the United Nations' efforts for peace by launching an offensive."

"Our troops will fight on in Korea, in keeping with our understanding of the responsibilities laid down on all members by the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council."

"Meanwhile, the United States feels that the position of the United Nations should be to continue attempts to achieve their objectives in Korea by peaceful means."

Mr Austin went on, "Accordingly, my Government remains ready to engage in discussions with the Chinese Communist regime at an appropriate time and in an appropriate forum."

He said that the United Nations could show the Chinese regime that it was detrimental to their interests to continue the way they were going. There might still be hope of averting the tragic consequences of an extension or continuation of the conflict. — Reuter.

NO APPEASEMENT

Lake Success, Jan. 3. The United States declared on Wednesday it was ready to negotiate with Communist China at the appropriate time despite Peking's rejection of the eight-point United Nations programme for a cease-fire in Korea.

The United Nations three-man committee named to negotiate a cease-fire in Korea, reported that Mao Tse-tung's Government had refused to consider the eight points agreed to by the United States as a basis of discussions aimed at ending the Korean war.

Chief United States delegate Warren Austin, speaking in the main Political Committee after the Russian delegate, Jacob Malik, denounced American "aggression" and "atrocities" in Korea, declared Communist China had ignored repeated assurances that the United Nations would protect its interests in Korea.

Mr Austin said: "The Chinese Communist regime has now indicated its attitude toward the intentions of the United Nations by a large-scale offensive against the 38th Parallel. It is in the face of this new aggression and the atmosphere promoted here by the speech of Mr Malik that we need to consult together on what the free world should do next."

Mr Austin said: "It is the view of my Government that aggression must be resisted. There can be no appeasement. If the hostilities continue, our troops will fight on in Korea." — United Press.

ACHESON RETICENT

Washington, Jan. 3. Secretary of State Dean Acheson declined to tell newsmen on Wednesday whether he thought there were any hope left of achieving a diplomatic settlement of the Korean conflict.

Mr Acheson likewise refused to say whether the Indian Government was continuing its previous practice of keeping the State Department informed of the attitude of the Chinese Communist Government.

In response to a question whether it was "safe to assume that there is still a chance" of a diplomatic settlement in Korea, Mr Acheson said that he did not want to say anything on that subject.

As for his recent discussions with the Indian Ambassador here, the Secretary of State said that he and Madame Pandit had discussed a wide range of subjects but that he was not at liberty to reveal specific points of their talks. Other sources have disclosed that Madame Pandit reiterated to Mr Acheson her Government's belief that the United States should agree to discuss broad questions of Asian policy with the Peking Government if that is the price for peace in Korea. — United Press.

Khan Definitely Not Leaving

Karachi, Jan. 3.

The Prime Minister, Mr Liaquat Ali Khan, definitely will not leave Pakistan today for the London conference of Commonwealth Prime Ministers, a government spokesman said. — United Press.

Forging Press In Dortmund

Duesseldorf, Jan. 3.

Herr Karl Arnold, the North-Rhine Westphalia Prime Minister, today asked the West German Federal Chancellor, Dr Konrad Adenauer, to intervene with the British High Commissioner, Sir Ivone Kirkpatrick, to stop the 10,000-ton forging press in the Dortmund Huetteneverein Foundry being sent to Britain.

The press, which is almost entirely dismantled, is awaiting shipment as reparations. — Reuter.

Israel Discussed

Washington, Jan. 3.

Mr Henry Morgenthau, former United States Secretary of the Treasury, said after a visit to the White House today that he had discussed with President Truman several matters concerning Israel and that they "saw eye to eye" on them.

He would not go into detail. — Reuter.

Aircraft Carriers For Pacific

Washington, Jan. 3.

The Navy said today that two 27,000-ton aircraft carriers would rejoin the Pacific Fleet on Jan. 15. The USS Essex and USS Richmond were scheduled to be placed in commission. — United Press.

CLARIFICATION NEEDED

Cool Reception Given Russian Note

Reply Not Considered An Acceptance Of Proposals

Washington, Jan. 3.

The Western Powers must have further clarification of the Soviet attitude before assuming that the Soviet Union is ready for four-power peace talks, Mr Dean Acheson, the US Secretary of State, said here today.

At his weekly Press conference, Mr Acheson said that the Soviet note did not constitute an acceptance of the Western Powers' proposals for talks and they must have further clarification of the Soviet position.

He denied that there were differences of view between the United States, Britain and France regarding the interpretation or acceptability of the proposals in the Soviet note.

The United States had already begun to discuss with Britain and France the next step to be taken.

They must have further clarification of the Soviet position before they could assume that the Soviet Union was ready to accept their proposals to discuss the solution of outstanding problems.

These included Germany, in regard to which the Soviet attitude had created a sense of insecurity in the minds of peace-loving nations.

Mr Acheson said that the United States had already begun to discuss with Britain and France the next step to be taken. In the discussions which the three powers had already had together regarding the note, they had not found any differences of opinion.

Mr Acheson recalled that France, Britain and the United States had already rejected any proposals for a Council of Foreign Ministers' meeting which would take up only the question of Germany.

NOT ACCEPTANCE

The Soviet note made no mention of the broader issues which the Western Powers had proposed should be explored.

Mr Acheson said that the only additional feature in the Soviet note was the statement that prior to a meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers, the Soviet

Union would be willing to have representatives of the four powers meet, but only to draw up an agenda.

Mr Acheson said that this was not an acceptance of the Western proposal for exploratory talks.

Mr Acheson declined to speculate on the possibility of the Soviet Union insisting on the presence of a representative of the Chinese Communist Government at any Council of Foreign Ministers' meeting to discuss Far Eastern questions.

Pressed further for his interpretation of the Soviet note, Mr Acheson said that it was neither an acceptance nor a rejection of the Western proposals for four-power talks.

It just did not deal with the matters outlined in the Western note calling for a discussion of the broader issues than the question of Germany.

Mr Acheson declined to comment on the Soviet suggestion that the meeting should be held in London, Paris or Moscow. But he said that in the normal course, the Council of Foreign Ministers, which meets alternately in the capitals of the four countries, would hold its next meeting in New York.—Reuter.

BIG THREE CONFER

London, Jan. 3.

Consultations between the three Western Powers—Britain, France and the United States on the Soviet Government's reply

to the proposals for a four-power meeting have taken place in Washington, a Foreign Office spokesman said here today.

The spokesman would make no comment on the Soviet note because, he said, it still required further study.

Meanwhile, it was considered in Washington that consultations between the three Western powers on their replies to the Soviet note were the next step in the move to a meeting.

The United States was expected to oppose an acceptance of the Soviet proposal for preliminary Big Four talks in any Big Four capital except New York, with Germany "first and foremost" on the agenda.

State Department officials showed scepticism at any appreciable relief in the East-West tension as a result of the Soviet note.

The reference in the note to Big Four consideration of the "competence of the Big Four Foreign Ministers" was seen in Washington as appearing to foreshadow Soviet demands for Chinese Communist representation at any meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers to discuss Far Eastern questions.

Such conditions would be unacceptable to the United States, it was said.

But it was said in Washington that because France and Britain do not want to neglect the slightest possibility of reaching a settlement with the Russians the United States is expected to agree to join them in genuine counter-proposals to the Kremlin.—Reuter.

VIETNAM PEACE BID DENIED

Rangoon, Jan. 3.

Dr Van Buan, representative of Vietminh in Rangoon, said today that he was not aware of any negotiations aimed at restoring peace between the Vietminh and the French-sponsored Vietnam regime in Indo-China.

The Burmese Foreign Ministry recently denied that Burma was acting as peacemaker between the French and the Communist Vietminh insurgents. Nevertheless, the rumour is current here that the Indonesian Ambassador is interested in such prospects and unofficially is sounding both sides, and also that Dr Tran is not receptive to the peace overtures.

Thakin Ba Sein, founder of the Thakin Party and at present president of the Burma Democratic Party, at a public meeting declared that the danger existed of an armed invasion by Red China and issued a call to arms to all freedom-loving Burmese irrespective of party.

Although a violent critic of the Government and only recently released from gaol, Thakin Ba Sein pledged support of the American aid policy and declared more aid was required. In case of an attack against Burma, he favoured intervention by the United Nations to help Burma repel the invader.—United Press.

EFFORT TO SPLIT THE BIG THREE

London, Jan. 3.

Russia is making a major bid to divide the Anglo-American-French coalition against Communist aggression on two vital issues—recognition of the Chinese Reds and German rearmament. That is one important interpretation placed by Western diplomats today on the Russian note replying to the Western proposal for a Big Four conference of Foreign Ministers on cold war problems.

The Americans are sceptical that the Russians really want to negotiate sincerely and the French and British are more optimistic, which is bound to irritate Western relations.

The deputies may meet, but early agreement for a Council meeting seems doubtful. The Russian note was prepared with subtlety with the obvious objective of aggravating major existing differences among Britain, France and America.

On China, the note said plainly that any Council discussion of Far Eastern problems or even global issues must include Red China. On Germany, Russia played up France's great reluctance to proceed with German rearmament and made it plain that any Big Four talks would be devoted for days toward the Soviet propaganda line—the Soviet Zone of Germany demilitarised and the West rebuilding the Wehrmacht.

Western officials will confer soon and decide what to do about Russia's "no objections" to a preliminary "agenda" conference but refusal to agree in advance to the discussion of anything except Germany. Some officials propose that another note be sent to the Kremlin demanding clarification before plunging into discussions. Others propose to proceed forthwith with the preliminary talks and obtain clarification there.

Whatever the outcome, the Russians obviously have the Westerners on the horns of a dilemma. Refusal to talk with the Russians again would play right into the Soviet "peace" campaign. Jumping into talks almost on Russia's terms would leave the Kremlin holding the high cards.—United Press.

Pocket Explosion

Saigon, Jan. 3.

A grenade exploded in a trouser pocket of a native, presumably a Communist terrorist, who was riding a motorcycle rickshaw in a downtown Saigon street. He died instantly.—United Press.

Queens

SHOWING TO-DAY

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BURT LANCASTER—VIRGINIA MAYO



Indonesia May Revise Pact

Djakarta, Jan. 3.

The Indonesian Premier, Dr Natsir, told Parliament here tonight that because of the failure of the Hague talks on Western New Guinea, Indonesia would have to consider revising last year's formidable agreement with the Dutch, including the Netherlands-Indonesian Statute.

Any future talks would have to be on the basis of the transfer of sovereignty over New Guinea to Indonesia, he said, or such discussions would be futile, even with the pressure and assistance of a third party.—Reuter.

Chinese Society Outlawed

San Francisco, Jan. 3.

Peking Radio reported tonight that the Singapore Government had outlawed Ai Hua Sheh, described as an overseas Chinese patriotic organisation.

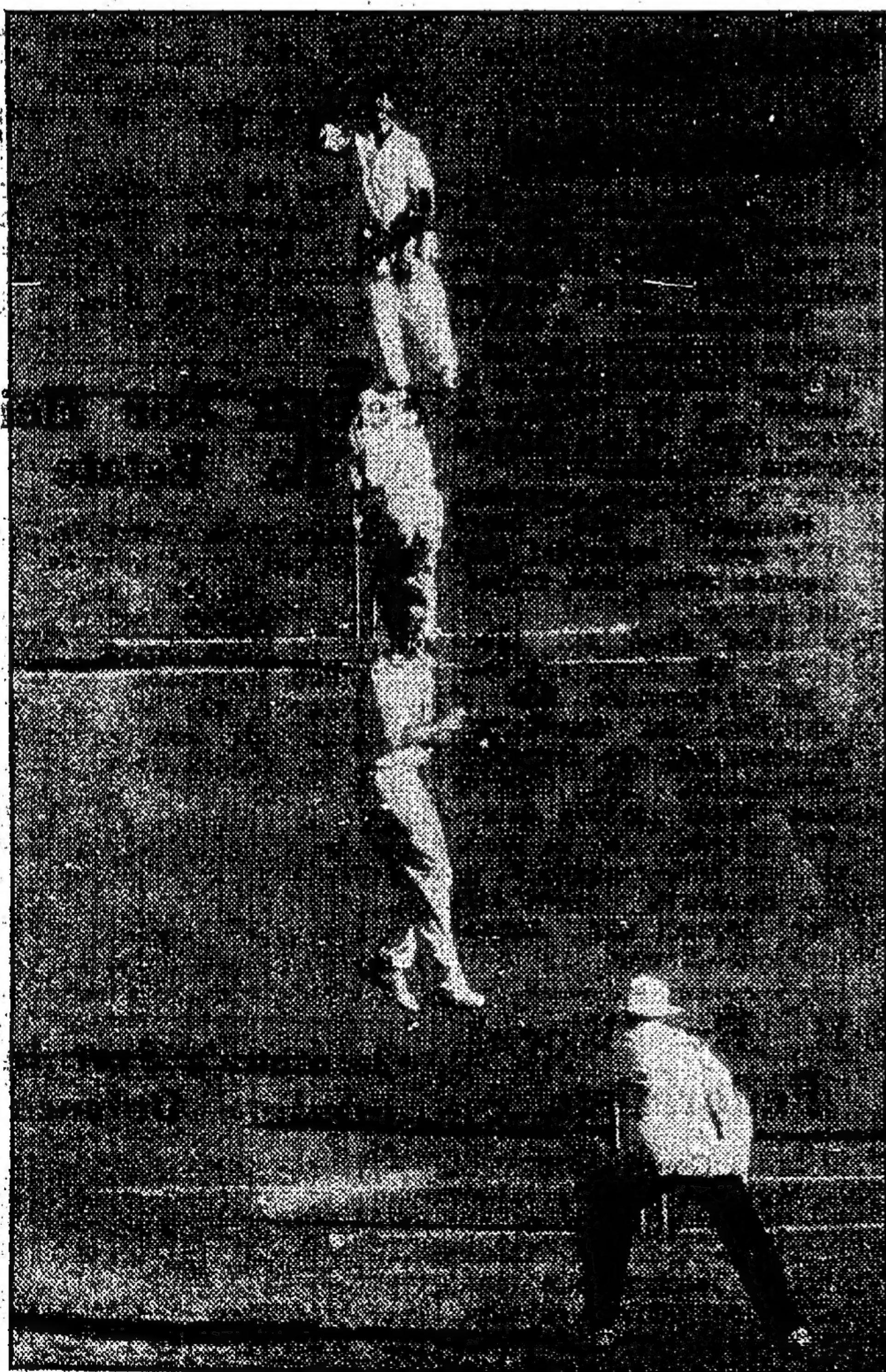
The Radio further alleged that the authorities in Singapore had arrested the secretary of the organisation, Mr Wu Sheng-yu.—Reuter.

Menzies Decorated

London, Jan. 3.

His Majesty the King this afternoon invested the Australian Prime Minister, Mr Robert G. Menzies, with the insignia of the Order of Companion of Honour, awarded to him in the New Year's Honours.

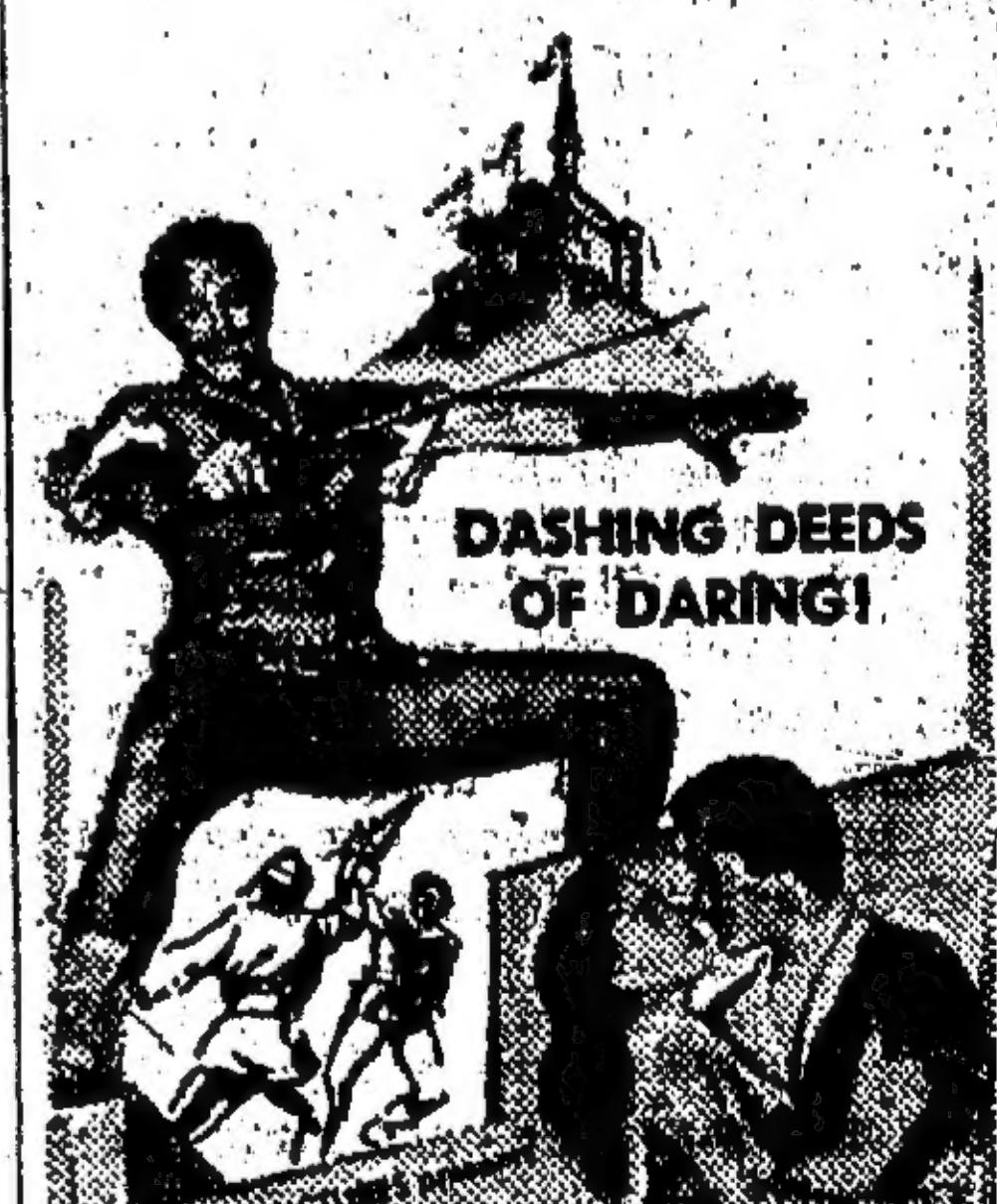
Later the King received Mr Sidney G. Holland, the New Zealand Prime Minister.—Reuter.



Trevor Bailey, who bowled exceedingly well for England in the second Test at Melbourne, was right on top when this picture was taken of him voicing a confident appeal for LBW against Lindwall. The appeal was ably backed by Evans.—Central Press.



FINAL SHOWING TO-DAY
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Morris, Australia's opening left-hander, is well caught in the slips by Hutton off Bedser during Australia's first innings in the second Test Match at Melbourne.—Central Press.

Chinese Reds May Enter Dead City Of Seoul To-day

By GENE SYMONDS

Seoul, Jan. 4, 1.40 a.m.

This is a dead city. The Chinese Communists may be here later on Thursday, and rich and poor, old and young, healthy and infirm are fleeing southward.

The wail of children who have lost their parents mingles with the roar of trucks, as the United Nations army withdraws from the capital of South Korea.

I am writing this story by the headlights of a jeep in front of a bonfire on the south bank of the Han river. Streaming past me is a pitiful procession. Old men hobble along on two sticks with blankets thrown over their shoulders. Children seven or eight years old, walk hand in hand searching the faces of the adults to find their parents. Babies whose faces are red with the freezing cold, wail endlessly.

The South Korean government pulled out of Seoul without making any announcement

of it. The remaining members of the United Nations Korean Commission left on Wednesday afternoon. On Wednesday night the only persons left in Seoul were tens of thousands of refugees. Now they too are fleeing ahead of the oncoming Red army.

Their escape route leads across the main highway and then over a dry riverbed. They can cross the highway only when there is a break in the line of military trucks. They stand patiently as the trucks roar by, and then, when there is a break, they move in a steady stream across the highway.

South Korean soldiers, badly mauled by the Communists, mingle with the refugees. They carry their rifles and packs and seem to be looking for their units so that they can re-form and get back into the war.

The residence of President Syngman Rhee is a ghost palace.—United Press.

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BIGGEST FREEZE IN WESTERN EUROPE SINCE END OF WAR

London, Jan. 3.

Thaw brought landslides, flooding and railway holdups to Western Europe today after the biggest freeze since the war. Roads were still reported to be icy and dangerous.

Thawing snow blocked railway lines throughout South and East Belgium. Ice breakers were operating to open the national Canal system to navigation. One barge, carrying 300 tons of coal, sank near Ostend after running into a block of ice. Icy roads caused several accidents.

A serious epidemic of three-day flu was reported throughout Belgium.

In Germany thawing snow filled cable shafts at one of Frankfurt's biggest transformer stations, causing a four-hour power cut throughout the business centre.

In France, herons roosting for the past few days on Notre Dame Cathedral flew off today—a sign, according to Parisians, of coming warmer weather.

In Italy there was again heavy snow in the northern part of the country after violent snowstorms during the night.

The rain-swollen Rano River washed over one of its bridges in the Florence area.

In Russia the greater part of the country was still frost-bound and snow-storms were raging in Siberia. But Spring weather had already reached the southern areas of the country with warm rains turning the fields green.

In Britain, overnight frost, after a partial thaw, made roads treacherous throughout the country and caused the worst traffic chaos this winter. Weather experts forecast an end of the long cold spell.

In America, freezing rain, sleet and snow pelted wide areas of the Middle West, delaying traffic and disrupting power services. Comparatively mild weather was reported in the Eastern and Southern States.

A total of more than 2.5 metres of snow had fallen in Houghton, Northern Michigan, in the past 46 days.—Reuter.

Chinese Aid For Vietminh

Saigon, Jan. 3.

The military agreement signed between the Vietminh leader, Dr Ho Chi-minh, and Communist China last year is believed by generally well-informed circles here to relate to Chinese military aid for the Vietminh forces in Indo-China.

Aid would be given where Vietminh forces suffered military reverses.

The same sources indicated that the text of the agreement was in the hands of the French authorities.—Reuter.

FATEFUL TWO-YEAR CONGRESS

Washington, Jan. 3.

The 82nd Congress began its fateful two-year term on Wednesday with a prayer, a presidential promise of higher taxes, and a democratic blast against isolationism.

Speaker Sam Rayburn sounded one keynote of the great foreign policy debate that will dominate the coming months. He told the House soon after it convened, the United States "cannot wrap two oceans around itself and stay safe and free." That was an obvious answer to former President Hoover's plan for concentrating the country's defence efforts behind the two oceans.

From the Republican side came a move to carry out part of the Hoover plan—a resolution that would call on the President to send no more United States troops overseas "without the prior consent of Congress." This was offered by Republican representative Frederic Coudert. It was one of dozens of proposals tossed into the House agenda.—United Press.

MAJOR PROBLEM

Washington, Jan. 3. Senator Robert Taft (Republican, Ohio), who is almost certain to be elected Chairman of the Republican Policy Committee in the United States Senate, said today that the major problem of the new Congress would be to "bring about a determination of military and foreign policies."

"The President's military policies and many of his foreign policies are hidden in darkness now," he told a reporter. "Congress and the people must know what he intends to do about Korea and what our military commitments are abroad."

Senator Taft foresaw Congress' almost complete absorption with the issues of rearming against the threat of Soviet aggression—such questions as military appropriations, new taxes, economic controls and changes in the draft law.

He gave little chance for legislation to expand Federal health, welfare and education activities.—Reuter.

Island 'Invaders' Taken Off

Bonn, Jan. 3.

The British authorities will take no action against the 24 Germans who were taken off Heligoland today, the Allied High Commission announced here tonight.

But future offenders will be prosecuted.

The British patrol boat, Eileen, brought to Cuxhaven the 16 Germans who have been "occupying" the island, Prince Hubertus of Loewenstein, the right-wing German politician led the "invasion," told Reuter that more demonstrators would land on Heligoland as soon as the British resumed their bombing practice.—Reuter.

French Beat Back Red Assault

Saigon, Jan. 3.

French forces at the China Sea port of Tienyen were reported on Wednesday to have beaten back a powerful Vietminh Communist attack after four days of bitter fighting.

The French military headquarters, which clamped a security blackout on the fighting in the Moncay-Tienyen sector near the Chinese Communist border after announcing that several Red Battalions were closing in, announced on Wednesday night, "The situation has improved."

It was the first official word that large-scale fighting had been in progress. A spokesman said French warplanes and ships were shelling the Reds in the Tienyen area.—United Press.

Search For Heir To Estate

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Jan. 3.

A British naval veteran, believed to be the heir to a wealthy English estate, was sought in Nova Scotia today.

William Robertson of Croydon, Surrey, who left his home 15 years ago, was believed to be in the Halifax area. His relatives were told the estate would be divided among his mother's three grandsons if he were not found within two years.

Robertson's mother, Mrs Annie Robertson, died in London last October.—United Press.

Germany's Part In Western Defence

London, Jan. 3.

The Bonn Government and the Allied High Commissioners will begin talks as scheduled on Monday on Germany's contribution to Western defence, a spokesman of the Foreign Office said today.

He denied a London press report from Bonn that instructions would be sent to the Allied High Commission following the new Soviet note on four-power peace talks.—Reuter.

U.S. Defence Production Administration

Washington, Jan. 3.

President Truman today set up a new "Defence Production Administration", tying together the Government's scattered emergency production agencies.

The new Administration is to be headed by Mr William H. Harrison, chief of the National Production Authority.

Under Mr Truman's executive, Mr Harrison, will have authority over industrial output, transportation, fuel, minerals and power.

The order does not place food under Mr Harrison's control, but it provides that if food supplies are insufficient, Mr Harrison and the Secretary of Agriculture, Mr Charles Brannan, "shall jointly determine the division to be made of the available supply," as between industrial needs and food for human and animal consumption.—Reuter.

Call By World Federalists

Geneva, Jan. 3.

The World Federalists called on the chiefs of state of all the nations of the world today to proclaim emergencies and order their parliaments to elect delegates to write a global constitution.

G. B. Devos, Belgian delegate, introduced a resolution containing this proclamation at the first Constituent Assembly called by the People's World Convention.—United Press.

CONFERENCE OF PREMIERS

Pakistan Being Persuaded To Join In Talks

World Situation To Be Discussed Under Six Broad Heads

London, Jan. 3.

On the eve of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' conference efforts were still being made to persuade Pakistan's Prime Minister, Mr Liaquat Ali Khan, to join the talks.

Tonight, Mr Rabid Rahimtoola, Pakistan's High Commissioner here, met Mr Patrick Gordon Walker, Commonwealth Relations Secretary at the British Government's request.

The Pakistan Prime Minister has taken the stand that he will not join the meetings beginning tomorrow morning unless the Kashmir dispute between Pakistan and India is considered collectively by the Prime Ministers.

The Prime Ministers will discuss the world situation for 10 days from Thursday.

It was learned today that the emphasis of their talks will be on the positive pursuit of peace rather than on the negative though necessary side of defence preparations against war.

Their discussion will include the following broad heads:

(1) A common Commonwealth foreign policy with a discussion of its defence implications.

(2) The question of Commonwealth policy towards Communist China.

(3) The implication of the war in Korea for the Commonwealth and its individual members.

(4) Policy on the question of new "Big Three" talks with Russia.

(5) Britain's commitments under the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and their implications in terms of manpower, money and rearmament.

(6) The Japanese peace treaty and, possibly, General MacArthur's recent suggestion that Japan might need to be re-armed.

Though defence will be discussed as a by-product of foreign policy, the detailed technical-defence plans of individual Commonwealth countries will not, it is understood, be considered.

Except for the Australian Secretary of Defence, Sir Frederick Shedden, no delegation is accompanied by a technical defence adviser.

ATTLEE TO OPEN

The Prime Minister, Mr Clement Attlee, will open the conference with a review of the world situation.

The Foreign Secretary, Mr Ernest Bevin, is expected to detail Britain's part in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation which may lead to a consideration of what greater part some Commonwealth countries may wish to play in meeting defence commitments.

The Prime Ministers share the hope that a positive ap-

proach to the task of preventing war will result from consideration of plans to build up living standard and economic strength.

In this context the recent £188,000,000 Colombo plan for the development of South and South-East Asia may be discussed.

The Prime Ministers will also deal with the question of equitable distribution among Commonwealth nations of vital raw materials.

Australia is expected to put forward the proposal for a Commonwealth defence secretariat. But the result cannot be predicted.

All the visiting Prime Ministers have now paid courtesy calls on Mr Attlee.

Mr Jawaharlal Nehru, the Indian Prime Minister, called on him within a few hours of his arrival by air from Bombay this evening.

Political observers here thought that the position arising out of Pakistan's attitude towards the conference may have been discussed between the two statesmen.

The King and Queen Elizabeth attended an eve-of-conference intercession service at Westminster Abbey at which most of the visiting leaders were present.

According to Commonwealth convention the Ministers will draft the final agenda tomorrow.

The Prime Ministers will lunch with the King at Buckingham Palace tomorrow.—Reuter.

NEHRU DISCUSSES

London, Jan. 3.

Indian Premier Nehru and Prime Minister Attlee met on Wednesday night to discuss Pakistan's absence from the conference of Commonwealth Ministers.

Mr Nehru's sister, Madam Lakshmi Pandit, the Indian Ambassador to the United States, arrived on Wednesday night from New York. She will consult with her brother and act as adviser during the con-

Deposed King To Be Restored

New Delhi, Jan. 3.

Press reports today said the Nepalese authorities had agreed to return deposed King Tribhuvana to the throne and replace the present Parliament with a constituent Assembly.

The reports said that Nepal, bowing to the Indian government's demands for democratic reforms, had promised to establish a constituent Assembly within 18 months. They said the Nepalese Council of Elders and Parliament would meet soon formally to dethrone the boy King and to reinstate his grandfather, Tribhuvana, who is at present in exile in New Delhi.—United Press.

ference. She declined to discuss the world situation except to say: 'A settlement with China seems too distant to discuss at the moment.'—United Press.

REGRETTABLE STEP

London, Jan. 3.

The London Times today maintained that a Pakistani decision to hold aloof from the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference, which opens in London tomorrow, would be regrettable.

This newspaper urged the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr Liaquat Ali Khan, to refuse to yield to the demands of public opinion in his own country on the issue of Kashmir.

"If he decides not to come at all the London meeting will be much poorer without his shrewd contributions to the collective counsels," the Times added.—Reuter.

RECEIVED AT NO. 10

London, Jan. 3.

The Prime Minister, Mr Clement Attlee, today received at No. 10, Downing Street, the Prime Ministers of Australia and New Zealand, Mr R. G. Menzies and Mr Sidney Holland, and Dr T. E. Donges, who is representing Dr Daniel Malan, Prime Minister of South Africa, at the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in London.—Reuter.

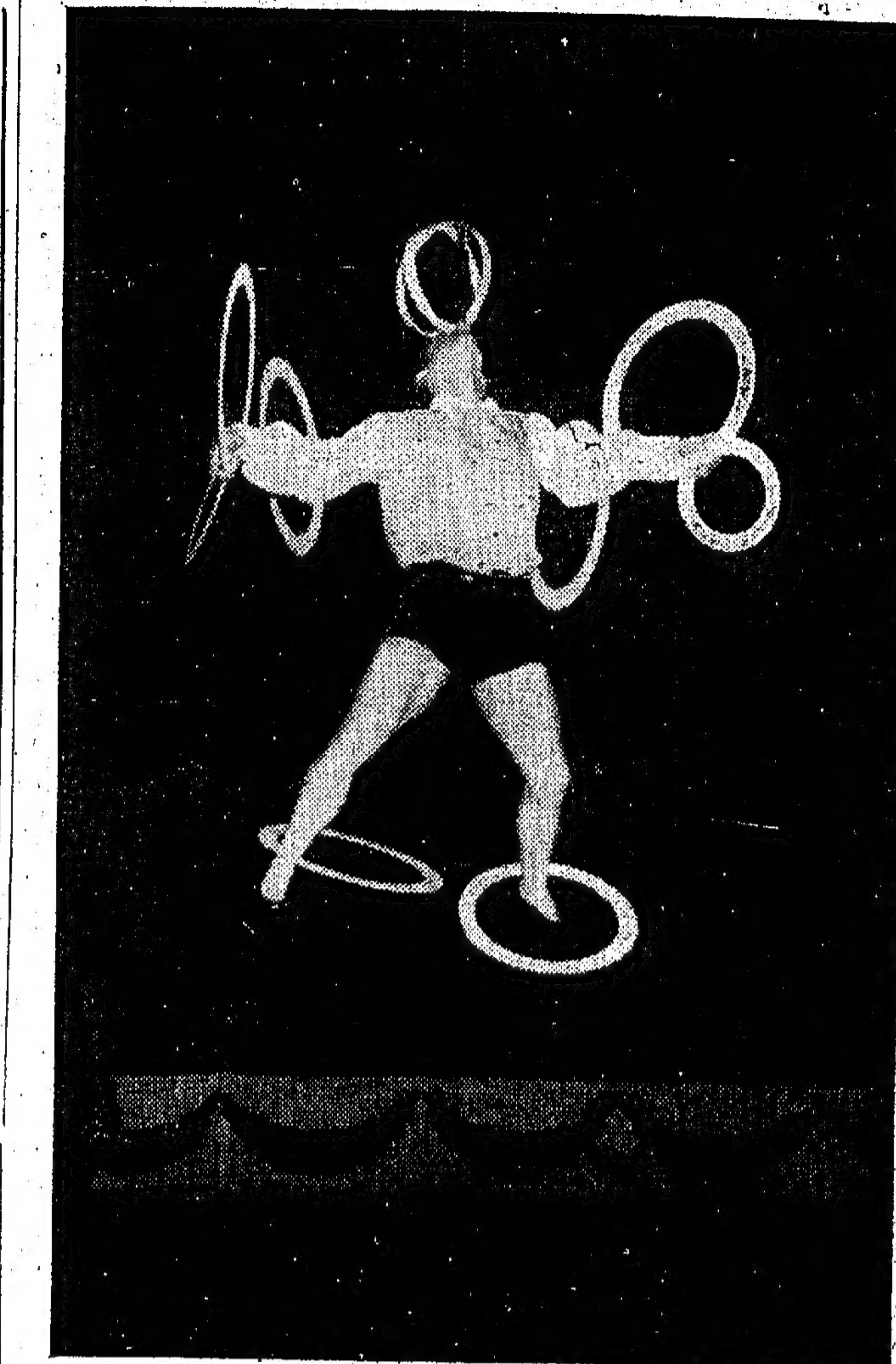
CANADA'S BIG ROLE

Ottawa, Jan. 3.

Government officials here forecast today that Canada may play her most important international role when the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference opens in London tomorrow.

Caught between two giant comrades—each of whom has divergent views of foreign trade and other policies—it was predicted here that the Canadian delegation would put forward the American viewpoint in discussions involving spheres in which the United States may be interested.

Government circles emphasised that they would not necessarily



Bert Holt, making his first appearance in England, seen as he performs his juggling act 60 ft. above the crowd. Picture from Harringay at the opening of the circus.—Central Press.

press for the acceptance of the American views but it was realised that Mr Louis St Laurent and the other members of his Cabinet would sooner or later be faced with the need to justify Canada's decision during frequent inter-governmental discussions in London now characterising Canadian-American steps towards industrial integration for defence.

Government circles pointed out that Mr St Laurent's London declaration that "there is too much talk of war" indicated that he maintained the confidence instilled by Mr Clement Attlee's visit to Ottawa in December.—Reuter.

ATTITUDE SUPPORTED

Karachi, Jan. 3.

A resolution supporting Mr Liaquat Ali Khan's attitude towards the Prime Ministers' Conference in London and urging reconsideration of Pakistan's ties with the Commonwealth was passed by the North-West Frontier Province Legislature in Peshawar today.

The resolution states that the Frontier Assembly "felt that it was high time that it should be seriously considered whether Pakistan should stay in the British Commonwealth or sever its connection with it."—Reuter.

Russia Way Behind In Atomic Race

New York, Jan. 3.

William L. Laurence, science reporter for the New York Times, thinks it highly unlikely that Russia will catch the United States production of atomic or hydrogen bombs before 1954, even though the Soviet espionage network helped her to produce the atomic bomb three to 10 years ahead of schedule.

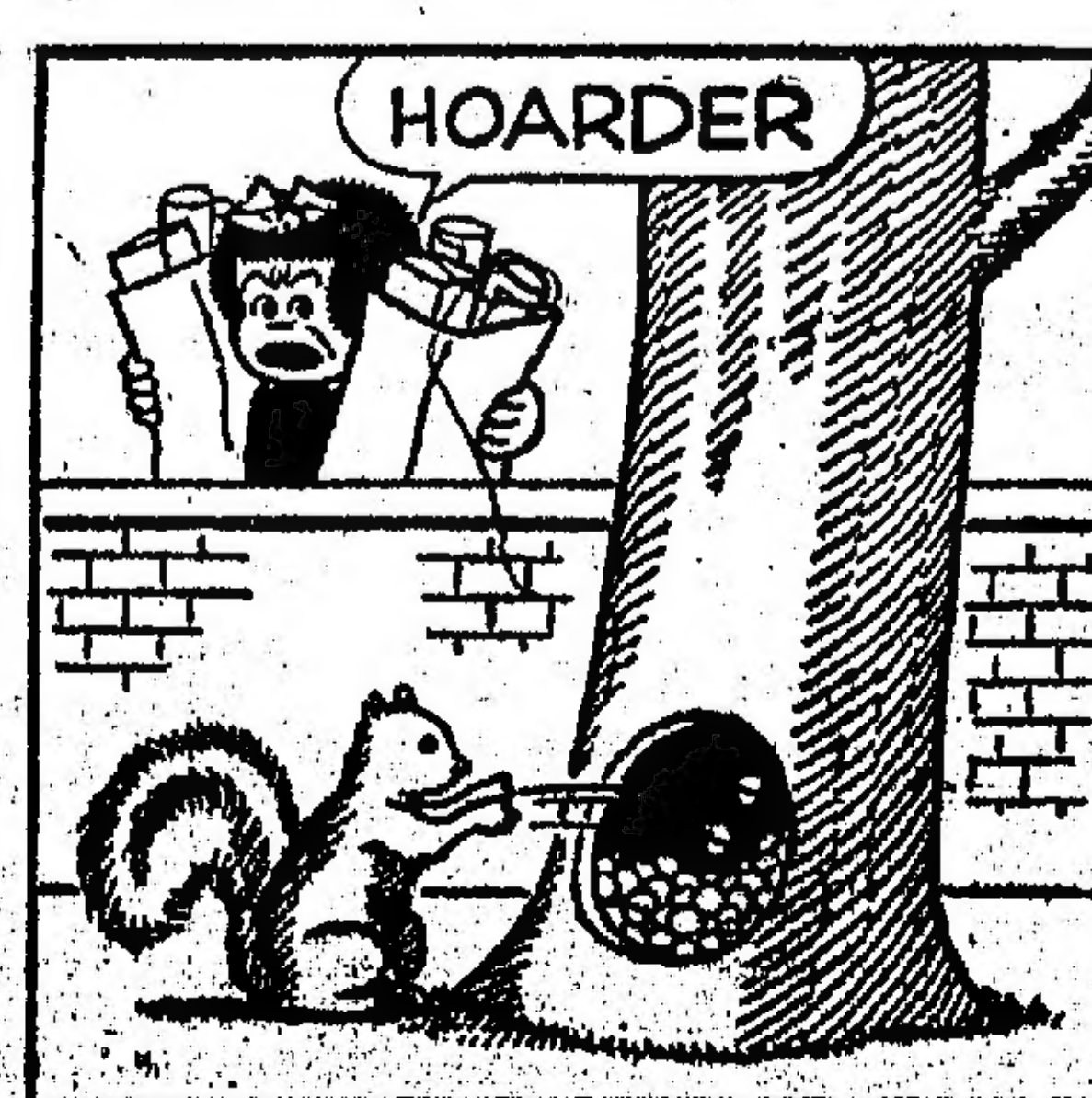
The Pulitzer Prize winner wrote in a book, "The Hell Bomb", published by Knopf, that the best Russia could do now would be to produce six plutonium bombs per year. He believed that Russia would have to quadruple her production to catch up with the United States.

Russia's lack of uranium ores would create an even wider gap between the United States and Soviet potential production of hydrogen bombs. "When it comes to producing the H-bomb the disparity between ourselves and Russia assumes astronomical proportions."—United Press.

NANCY

Nuts to You

By Ernie Bushmiller



Jockey Club Cracks Down On Dope

(By OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

London.

Doping is the topic of the moment wherever owners, trainers and jockeys foregather — and especially among the trainers. The reason is a new Jockey Club rule which came into force on January 1. This lays down that if it is found that "any drug or stimulant has been administered to a horse for the purpose of affecting its speed," the trainer's licence will be withdrawn and he will be warned off the Turf.

Till now the Jockey Club in dope cases has acted under two old rules which give them wide powers of discretion. Now, trainers are saying, there will be no discretion and warning off will automatically follow an analyst's positive report, even if the trainer was on the other side of the world when the alleged offence was committed.

Racing circles as a whole are inclined to think the new rule too harsh. Over the past couple of months three trainers have lost their livelihoods even under the old rules.

Take the case of M. A. Collins, the Blewbury trainer. His filly, Quizzical Miss ran second at Doncaster and was then ordered to be examined. The analyst's report stated the sample of the filly's saliva was negative. But one-thousandth of a grain of caffeine was found in the sample of sweat.

Collins, on the day in question, was at Newbury, 200 miles away from Doncaster. Suppose the analyst had made a mistake in the detection of such a minute quantity of a drug? The trainer had no chance at all of having an independent analysis conducted in his defence; even if he had been on the course at Doncaster, it would have been difficult to get a veterinary surgeon to the spot in time.

Racegoers have the uncomfortable feeling that there have been injustices in punishments for doping in the past and there will be greatly increased chances of miscarriages of justice in the future.

DOPING ON INCREASE

All the same, one can see the Jockey Club's point of view. Doping has been on the increase on English racecourses since the war and quite clearly this is to be a determined effort to stamp it out.

The Jockey Club put the full responsibility squarely on the trainer for everything that happens to horses in his charge. If anything goes wrong, he takes the rap. It may be rough and ready justice—but what other steps would you take to deal with the increase in doping?

Some people say: Don't put it all on the unfortunate trainer. What about the owner who is not above putting it across the book-makers with the aid of a doped horse? Such owners do exist—and they have been less uncommon in English racing since the war.

Then there is another difficulty. What is "dope"? At the moment interesting experiments are going on here with courses of glandular injections to improve the condition of racehorses, and therefore presumably their speed. No one knows whether this would come under the new Jockey Club rule.

FOLLOW AMERICA

These few points—among the many being debated here—show this whole subject of doping bristles with difficulties. My one view is that the American system should be adopted whereby the first three or four in a race are automatically examined after the race and have samples taken for analysis. Then it is the same for everyone, no slur is attached and the examination of every winner and every placed horse is taken for granted.

But there is still the problem of apportioning the blame and there is still the difficulty that horses are doped to lose as well as to win.

Perhaps all this excitement over doping will come at something of a shock to racing folk

overseas, who may have regarded English racing as comparatively clean and free from the doping evil so prevalent in some other countries.

PRESS HAMSTRUNG

I am not saying it is prevalent here but it is certainly increasing. Racing correspondents of newspapers come across a certain number of cases every season when it is 1,000 to 1 certain that a horse has been doped. But, the law of libel being what it is, they cannot say a word.

Most doping cases cannot be proved and any owner or trainer could be practically certain of enormous damages against any newspaper which printed its suspicions, however well-founded.

But this much can be said. Dope has been administered in this country since the war, not only to horses running in smaller races but also to contenders for the classics.

I could name three big race winners when tests, if taken, would have given positive results, two for arsenic and the other for cocaine. A big race winner this season almost certainly won, thanks to an aid, banned in English racing many years ago.

Normal methods of detection, usually started as the result of information received, have not been effective. The racing world is well-schooled in keeping its secrets. For every behind-the-scenes probe that has led to any action being taken, a dozen have come to a dead end. Hence this tightening-up by the Jockey Club.

CRISIS AHEAD

The moral racing standards of English racing are down and the quality of the horses engaged is likely to go down too, if this is not the case already.

There is no doubt about it, a financial crisis looms ahead. This means, of course, that British bloodstock is in danger.

I doubt whether the Labour Government has been very imaginative over the taxation side of horse racing, though the political difficulties of making any exception are understood. But approximately 48 percent in entertainment tax is a burden that cannot be borne for long.

The result is, of course, that for the ordinary man a day's racing is too costly and attendances are falling off. This sets up a vicious circle. Reduced returns at the turnstiles mean lower prize money for owners, many of them already feeling the pinch. After all, they have their own taxation problems to contend with. So we are almost bound to find fewer horses in training, smaller fields, especially at the less important meetings—and so the process of deterioration will continue.

There is only one way to arrest it—and that is a reduction in entertainment tax. But I doubt whether a Labour Government would play ball.

SUNDERLAND SCORE A GRAND WIN



In their upward climb in the First Division Home Soccer League, Sunderland scored a grand away victory over formidable Manchester United during the Christmas holidays by five goals to three. Photo shows Rowley (centre) flashing across the Sunderland goalmouth, with Aston (left) running up for it. Sunderland defenders (in whites) from left to right are Hudgell, McLain, Walsh, goalkeeper Mapson and Pearson.

MCC FORCED TO A DRAW By NSW

Sydney, Jan. 3.

On the eve of the third Test, the M.C.C. to-day made a gallant but vain bid to beat New South Wales, the Sheffield Shield champions. The match ended in a draw.

The State were then still 90 runs in arrears with only four second innings wickets remaining.

Freddie Brown declared the M.C.C. innings closed an hour before tea at 553 runs for eight wickets, the highest total of the tour, thanks to a splendid double century by Reg Simpson, the Nottinghamshire amateur.

The State lost five wickets, including those of the Test stars, Morris and Miller, for only 31 runs in 40 minutes.

But then came a spirited sixth wicket partnership of 90 runs between Jim Burke and Jack Moroney.

Simpson, who began his marathon innings on Monday evening, batted nearly nine hours for 259 runs and hit 23 boundaries.

It was the highest individual score by an M.C.C. player in Australia since the war. The previous best was Walter Hammond's 208 runs against Western Australia in 1946.

The Nottinghamshire amateur, who figured in the top stand of the tour with Hutton yesterday—236 runs—was again concerned in a double century partnership to-day.

He and Gilbert Parkhouse put on 228 runs for the fourth wicket before the latter fell when only eight runs short of his century.

Bob Madden, a 21-year-old all-rounder in his first year of first-class cricket, bowled Parkhouse, the first of three victims he claimed in a fine spell of seven balls.

It was an amazing contrast to yesterday, when only one wicket fell all day, and the period before lunch to-day, when Simpson and Parkhouse added 99 runs in 90 minutes, to see 10 wickets—five M.C.C. and five New South Wales—crash for 104 runs between lunch and tea.—Reuters.

Is This The End Of The Mighty Arsenal?

By ARCHIE QUICK

Topic of conversation wherever sporting folk foregather is not the surprising confounding of the critics by cricketers in Australia but the rise of Sunderland and the fall of Arsenal.

Are we witnessing the end of an era at Highbury? Not one point or goal did the mighty Gunners gain during the Christmas holidays and although they are still fourth in Division One table they have now gone six matches without a victory—a post war record for them. Is this the break up? Are the veterans on the way out?

It is difficult to place the blame for their decline, for it is not aging defenders like Joe Mercer, Leslie Compton, George Swindin and Wally Barnes who are letting the side down. It is the forwards who are not ringing the bell—attackers like Goring, Lishman, Logie McPherson and Roper who previously had gathered all the praise.

Speaking before the event, I forecast the early return to first team duty of Reg Lewis who has actually not played for the premier eleven since he scored the winning cup final goal against Liverpool at Wembley last April. Even so it looks as though Arsenal will have to buy—a thing they have not done for a long while.

SUNDERLAND'S FEAT

In direct contrast, Sunderland took all six points they played for over the holidays, twice beating Manchester United and also defeating Liverpool at Roker Park. Manager Bill Murray has had to submit to some ridicule for his spending spree which poured out £30,000 for centre forward Trevor Ford and five figure transfer fees for other forwards like Ivor Broadis and Len Shackleton. Now his faith in his judgement is beginning to bear fruit.

When I was at Sunderland recently for the England-Wales International Mr Murray said to me: "Players like I have got cannot stay round the bottom of the League table for long. We shall not win the Championship this time but we will rise before the New Year." It looks as though he has proved a sound prophet. It will indeed be interesting if Sunderland continue to improve and join issue with their North East coast rivals, Newcastle United and Middlesbrough.

I cannot remember an occasion when all three of them were fighting for leading honours and

quite candidly I do not think it will happen this season. Sunderland are too far behind and somehow I cannot rid myself of the feeling that Newcastle will crack sooner or later. Neither bears the stamp of Middlesbrough.

Nine Dragons Darts And Table Tennis

The January programme for the Darts and Table Tennis Competitions organised by the Nine Dragons Services Club is given below.

All games will take place at the Nine Dragons Services Club, commencing at 7 p.m. The finals of the two Competitions, which are run on a monthly basis, will take place on the last Thursday of each month.

Teams not present by 7.30 p.m. will be deemed to have conceded a walkover in favour of their opponents.

DARTS

To-day
1st Bn Wilts v Hongkong Signal Regiment; 15 Field Park Squadron RE v 35th Bty "A".

Thursday, January 11
35th Bty "B" v 15 Obs Bty RA; Command W/Shops REME v Winners of 1st Wilts v Hongkong Signal Regiment.

TABLE TENNIS

To-day
RAF v 1st Bn Wilts.
Thursday, January 11
15 Field Park Squadron RE v 173 Locating Battery.
Thursday, January 18
K.S.L.I. v Winners of RAF and 1st Bn Wilts.

ALGIERS-CAPE MOTOR RALLY

Paris, Jan. 3.

The Italian group taking part in the Algiers-Cape motor rally was reported to have left Mascara this morning. Jan Gleisner, the lone South African rider, was penalised for having arrived late in Ajn-Sefra, south of Oran, it was reported. He had to make lengthy repairs to a leaky radiator on New Year's Day.

Other competitors were reported as running to schedule over good roads. But the surfaces will become difficult after Beniabes and El Golea, when the crossing of the Sahara Desert begins.—Reuters.

The Churchill Story: 13th Instalment IN THE TRENCHES

"WAR is declared, gentlemen, on the lice." By Colin Frame

Lieutenant-Colonel Winston Churchill, newly-appointed CO of the 6th battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers, stationed at Ploegsteert (of course he called the place Plug-street) began his first speech to his officers with these words.

Archie Sinclair, his second-in-command, looked as though he could not believe his ears.

Years later, as Sir Archibald Sinclair, Air Minister when Churchill was Prime Minister, he was to hear equally frivolous remarks at most serious moments.

But Churchill was quite serious about it. He had just come from the 2nd Grenadier Guards, whose spotless appearance even in the mud of the trenches he had admired.

Smart And Proud

It was now early in 1916. War was indeed declared on the lice, and on dirty buttons and slovenly stances and all that mass of misbehaviour the Guards call being idle.

In ten days Churchill had his Scots looking as smart and as proud as if they were marching down Princes-street, Edinburgh, instead of Plug-street, Flanders.

He might have been a disgruntled commander. He had been promised a brigade, but he had asked first for a month in the trenches to accustom himself to warfare. He joined the Guards as a major.

After all, apart from a few days at Antwerp, his last experience of war had been on horseback on the wide fields, not as an animal in a hole.

"I think I ought to tell you we were not consulted at all on the matter of your coming to join us," was the Grenadier colonel's chilly greeting.

It drizzled; the Guards moved into the line; the guns rumbled; his fellow officers pointedly showed his previous celebrity counted for nothing with them; altogether a chastening experience for the King's former Minister.

But "War is a game to be played with a smiling face" he never tired of telling his men, and soon Churchill, cheerful, fearless, efficient and amusing, had won men and officers over.

He was, of course, a curiosity. Officers dropped casually into his dug-out hoping to meet this famous character, who had thrown up a ministerial post and £4,000 a year for the wrong end of a barrage and more mud than any politician could sling in a lifetime.

Dug-Out Blown Up

ONE day a general, purely out of curiosity, ordered him to meet him at a certain cross-roads. Churchill's irritation vanished when he returned to find that in his absence a shell had completely demolished his dug-out.

When he felt he had learnt enough he returned to Sir John French to claim his promise of a brigade. But Haig had replaced French, and Asquith, it was reported, had insisted that Churchill should not have such a big command.

Haig offered a battalion. Churchill took it.

Good Commander

THREE other men destined to share with him the stage in another more terrible war, played at this time humbler and widely different roles.

Stalin brooded in exile among the Siberian snows. Lieutenant Roosevelt, of the American Navy, was on staff duties in Washington. Mussolini had just given up an editorship to wear the feathered hat of a private in the Bersaglieri. Hitler had not attained corporal's rank in Bavaria. At his Plug-street farmhouse HQ Churchill—whom in innocent ignorance many of his men called Sir Winston, Viscount Churchill or the Duke of Churchill—showed himself a good commander as well as a brave warrior.

"I am firmly convinced," wrote one of his subalterns, later a lawyer "that no more popular officer ever commanded troops. As a soldier he was hard-working, persevering and thorough."

There are plenty of good stories about him at this time and most of them are told by Lewis Broad in a lively chapter in his biography, "Winston Churchill" (published by Hutchinson).

His lecture on the physique and habits of the louse became famous. He took a puckish delight in using cavalry drill orders which mystified his foot-slogging men.

Sing, Men, Sing

It was rumoured in the mess after one march past that Colonel Churchill had turned to Sinclair and whispered, "Oughtn't they to gallop, Archie?"

Eventually the rest-period was over and Churchill took his command proudly into the line. Some still remember his urgent order as he rode beside the column, "Sing, men, sing."

He was easily recognisable. He was immensely fond of the French poilu's blue helmet and he wore it regularly.

He also sometimes wore a mackintosh overall of his own design, pale ghost of his siren suit in a later war.

"We will go easy at first," he told his officers. "A little digging and feeling our way, and then perhaps later on we may attempt a deed."

These "deeds" were indeed attempted. He made friends with the chief of the artillery behind him and between them they organised miniature battles to annoy the Germans.

"Come on, war is declared," he would shout, rousting out officers and men in the small hours. And a platoon or two would offer rapid fire while the gunners put the enemy on the alert.

Then, as the inevitable return fire began, with shells surging over their heads, Churchill would turn to one of his men and ask: "Don't you like war?"

It was, no doubt, purely a rhetorical question. In every way Churchill showed he liked it very much.

Another of his habits was to declaim, richly, oratorically, to his men.

"Here we are," he once said with an expansive gesture, "torn away from the Senate and the Forum to fight on the battlefields of France."

His hearers, busy wondering whether the Senate and the Forum was the name of a public-house, meekly said, "Yes."

On another occasion a general who arrived after shelling had knocked one of Churchill's strongholds to pieces, delivered what was later to be known as a "rocket." "Look here, Churchill, this won't do, you know. Men cannot go on living here; look at that sentry there—it's dangerous, you know."

"Yes, sir," replied the master of debate, "but you know this is a very dangerous war."

A Good Joke

ONE night, after entertaining distinguished but less battle-thrilled visitors to dinner, Churchill should not have such a big command.

said: "It's a lovely night—I expect you'd like to see my trenches."

This was hardly his guests' idea of hospitality but they felt disinclined to refuse. So he took them a most arduous trip through mud and barbed wire, past the carcasses of dead cows and beneath the all-seeing glow of Very lights.

It was considered a good joke by the battalion.

All the evidence goes to show that Churchill was more than a happy warrior. He was also a bonny leader, adept at what has become known as man-management.

The men cheered him as he left on special leave to attend a Parliamentary debate.

They were quite certain the Duke of Churchill was off to put their case for less plum and apple jam and more leave before the Commons itself.

Minister Again

BUT, pleasant and high-spirited as this seven-month interlude from politics was, he was clearly being wasted. Powerful friends urged him to return to London. He did so when his regiment was finally merged with another and he lost his command.

In June, 1917, he became Minister of Munitions under Lloyd George's premiership and, among other triumphs of organisation which delivered the goods to the fighting troops, he was allowed to develop the tank, which was largely the product of his own brain.

Three years before at the Admiralty he had ordered experimentally eighteen tractor-driven, trench-crossing vehicles with bullet-proof boxes on them for the crew. His successor cut that order to one.

But the first tanks proved their value in 1916, and by the time the war ended Churchill had placed a contract with Ford to make 10,000.

He never forgot the men he had left behind. He never ceased to deplore the unimaginative deployment of them in costly frontal attacks. One of his first memoranda on his return was designed to make the War Council think again before giving permission for the Haig attack at Passchendaele which cost 400,000 casualties and gained next to nothing.

How much more cheaply in cost of British lives and how much more skilfully in terms of military strategy the battles of the last war were won under his leadership.

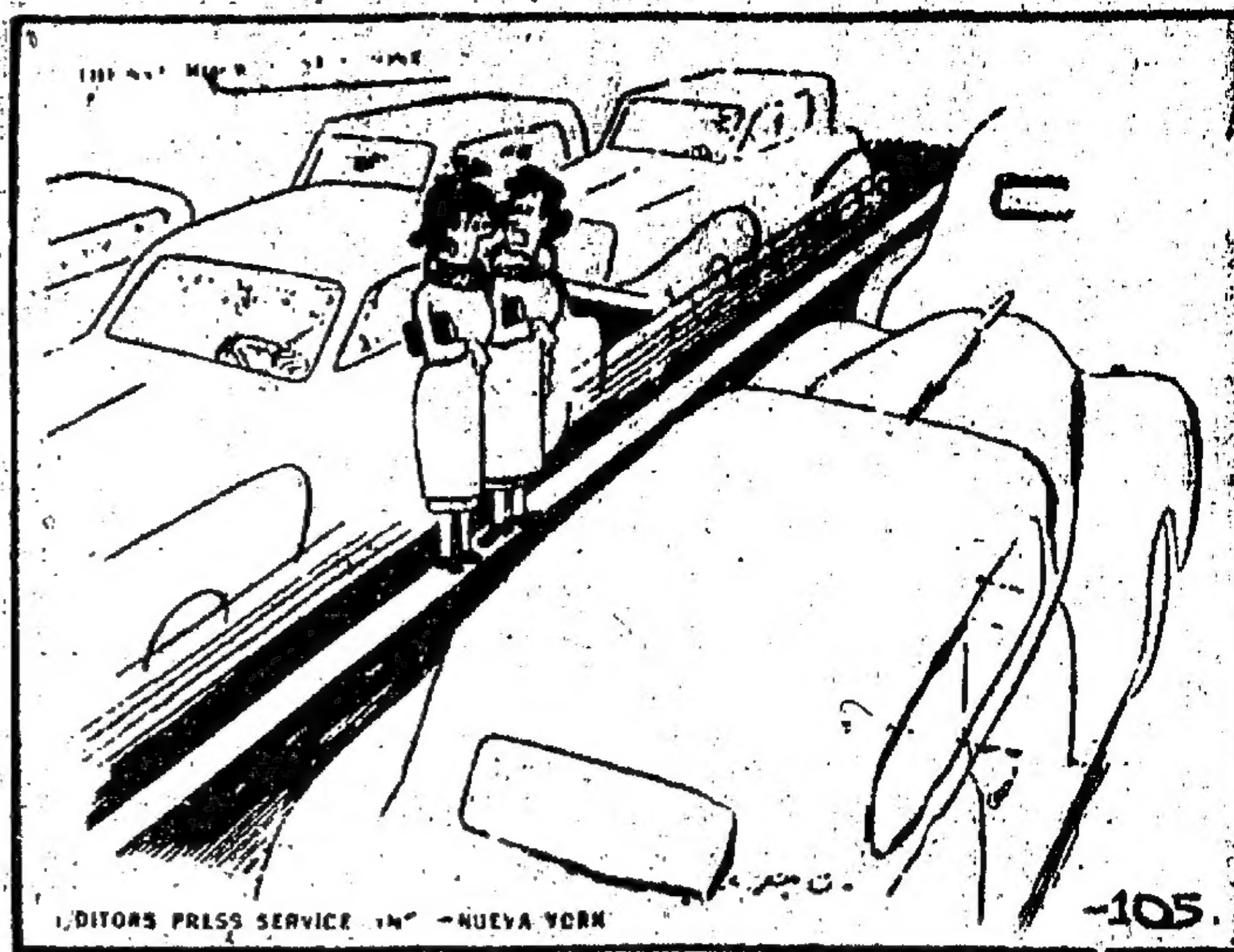
In "The World Crisis," his four-volume account of the 1914-18 war (Odhams Press), he wrote movingly of the men he commanded in trench warfare.

"Needless Cost"

AS in the shades of a November evening, I for the first time led a platoon of Grenadiers across the sopping fields which gave access to our trenches, while here and there the bright flashes of the guns or the occasional whistle of a stray bullet accompanied our path, the conviction came into my mind with absolute assurance that the simple soldiers and their regimental officers, armed with their cause, would by their virtues in the end retrieve the mistakes and ignorances of Staffs and Cabinets, of Admirals, Generals and politicians—including, no doubt, many of my own.

"But, alas, at what a needless cost!"

MORE TOMORROW



"My, these safety zones are narrow!"

FOR THE BUSINESSMAN

RAW MATERIALS PROBLEM WILL FACE PREMIERS

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

London, Jan. 3.

A subject which is certain to come high on the agenda of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' meeting, which begins here tomorrow, is the problem of raw materials.

It is believed the Ministers will work out a plan to extend the present method of securing co-operation between Commonwealth countries in the economic sphere.

The machinery for co-ordinating the raw material needs of the various Commonwealth countries already exists in the regular meetings of Trade Commissioners and other economic experts attached to each High Commissioner in London.

This committee, meeting under the auspices of the Commonwealth Relations Office, has done much valuable work in preventing Commonwealth countries competing with each other in a general scramble for raw materials. It was set up after the meeting of Commonwealth Finance Ministers in July 1949 and its original purpose was to carry out dollar-saving policy worked out by the Ministers.

It is now thought, that this Committee, which has valuable experience in distributing supplies among Commonwealth countries, might be the appropriate body to deal with the present raw material crisis. Although the Trade Commissioners' Committee could ensure more equitable distribution of Commonwealth raw materials among the various Commonwealth countries which are engaged in defence programmes, they would have no control over the many important commodities which come from other sources. It would therefore have to be decided how this Committee could fit in with the machinery for raw material allocation which is being set up in Washington as a result of the meeting between Mr Attlee and President Truman.

The Prime Ministers may also discuss the possibility of building up a Commonwealth strategic stockpile of raw materials.

LONDON RUBBER MARKET

London, Jan. 3.

Prices in the rubber futures market here closed today as follows:

No. 1 rubber	53-54
(in cents per lb.)	
February	52-52½
March	51-51½
April/June	48½-49
July/September	44½-45
October/December	42-42½

—United Press.

SINGAPORE MARKET

Singapore, Jan. 3.

Prices in the rubber futures market here closed today as follows:

No. 1 rubber, per lb.	183-184
January (1951)	176½-177-½
February	170-171
March	173-174
No. 2 rubber, Jan.	168-169
No. 3 rubber, Jan.	166-167
No. 4 rubber, Jan.	164-165
Spot rubber, unbleached	145-147
Black crepe	193-195
No. 1 Pale crepe	193-195

—United Press.

Uruguayan Meat Agreement

Montevideo, Jan. 3.

Foreign Office officials reported today that an agreement will soon be signed for shipping Uruguayan meat to Israel. They said the agreement would cover several years with periodical revision of prices. They said the shipments will begin as soon as the agreement is signed.—United Press.

Metal Market

New York, Jan. 3.

Prices in the metal market here closed today unchanged with the following exceptions:—Tin, Grade A, 49.80 percent or higher, New York, per lb.—United Press.

JEST A MINUTE!

By GEOFFREY EVANS



"Aw, well, it's a shame to see something coming down, isn't it, duck?"

MEDIATION EFFORTS FAILURE

Three-Man Cease-Fire Group Issues Its Report

Unable To Recommend Any Solution At Present

Lake Success, Jan. 3.

The three-man cease-fire group reported to the United Nations Political Committee today that it had failed to negotiate a cease-fire with the Chinese Communist forces in Korea.

Sir Benegal Narsing Rau, the chief Indian delegate to the United Nations and a member of the group, gave the Committee what he called a plain and unvarnished account of what the group had attempted to do since Dec. 14 of last year.

The basis for the negotiations which the group felt to be reasonable was:

- 1.—The cessation of all acts of armed force in the whole of Korea.
- 2.—The establishment of a demilitarised area across Korea about 20 miles in depth with the southern limit of the 38th Parallel.
- 3.—All ground forces to remain in position or be withdrawn to the rear.
- 4.—The cease-fire to be supervised by a United Nations Commission which should have free access to the whole of Korea.
- 5.—No further reinforcements to be introduced by either side.
- 6.—Prisoners to be exchanged on a one for one basis.

APPROACH MADE

Two auxiliary points in the programme for the cease-fire negotiations included appropriate steps to ensure the security of the forces, the movement of refugees and the problems of civil government and policing in the demilitarised zone.

It was also proposed that the General Assembly should confirm the cease-fire arrangement which should continue in effect until superseded by further steps to be approved by the United Nations.

Sir Benegal Rau reported that the United Nations Unified Command had accepted these terms as a satisfactory basis for a cease-fire.

The group then attempted to discuss the question with the Chinese People's Republic representative in New York, General Wu Hsiu-chuan.

The first attempt was made on Dec. 16 by Mr. Nasrollah Entezam, the President of the General Assembly and chairman of the group.

On Dec. 16 a request was made to the Peking Government through the Swedish Embassy to keep General Wu in New York and give him powers to negotiate.

PEKING'S REPLY

The reply from Mr. Chou En-lai, the Peking Foreign Minister, was that as a Communist Chinese representative had not taken part in the Assembly proceedings these were regarded as "illegal and null and void."

For this reason the Peking Government cabled that General Wu had no cause to remain in New York.

Subsequently the group received from Peking a copy of a long statement, first issued by Peking Radio on Dec. 22, in which the entire cease-fire effort was branded as a "United States intrigue."

Sir Benegal then reported that, after receiving this statement from Peking, the group had been forced to the following conclusion:

"In these circumstances, and in spite of its best efforts, the group regrets that it has been unable to pursue the discussion of a satisfactory cease-fire arrangement."

"It therefore feels that no recommendation in regard to a cease-fire can usefully be made by it at this time."

DID THEIR BEST

At the conclusion of the group's report, Sir Benegal added: "Most people will prob-

ably feel that our report is little more than a record of failure. But failure does not mean that the effort was not worthwhile or that we should not try it again.

"If, by any chance, there were another world war, history would record that we made all efforts to avert it."

"A world war would mean the end of the United Nations as a world organisation."

"We should go on with every effort to maintain peace even if the first effort had failed."

Mr. Jacob Malik, the chief Soviet delegate, followed immediately after with a long list of accusations against the United States and Britain for allegedly sabotaging the peace efforts in Korea.

He said: "It is quite clear from a number of official and unofficial statements in America and Britain that the United States does not really want a cessation of the hostilities in Korea."

"On the contrary, it is clear that the United States intends to press forward with aggression. It has already categorically rejected all the resolutions which would have brought the withdrawal of troops and a peaceful settlement."

"The true intentions of the ruling circles of the United States are to press forward with their hopeless adventure."

"ANGLO-U.S. BLOC"

Mr. Malik then cited a number of facts which, he said, indicated that the "ruling circles" of the United States were seeking war and not peace.

Among these were the proclamation of a state of emergency in the United States, mobilisation plans for a "four-fold increase" in military equipment, "the intensification of war hysteria and the military aggressive plot hatched in Brussels," a number of "aggressive speeches by President Truman and Mr. Dean Acheson, and the imposition of an economic blockade on China."

Mr. Malik accused the "Anglo-American bloc" of having forced the United Nations to take an "illegal and hostile" attitude towards the Chinese People's Republic.

"It is time for the United Nations to put an end to these insults against the Chinese People's Republic," he declared.

Mr. Malik reiterated that the only possible terms for a settlement in Korea were:

- 1.—The withdrawal of all foreign troops.
- 2.—Allow the Korean people to settle their political problem among themselves.

He then followed with a lengthy account of alleged atrocities committed by the United Nations forces in Korea, quoting for this purpose from a number of publications.

On a British motion, the Political Committee adjourned until Friday to allow the members to consult on the next measure to be taken following the group's failure to negotiate a cease-fire. — Reuter.

UN QUILTS SEOUL

(Continued from Page 1)

were ordered to give up without a fight ground which they died taking."

COUNTER-ATTACK

Near smouldering Uijongbu, on the central road 11 miles north of Seoul, 300 Australian troops mounted guns on 20 tanks and raced headlong into a counter-attack killing hundreds of Communists on either side of the road.

Fifth Air Force planes inflicted more than 1,200 casualties when they slashed back at the advancing Communist armies. Shooting Star jets killed or wounded about 200 of about 1,000 Communists north-west of Uijongbu.

On the road from the north-west to Seoul the United Nations troops today abandoned Munsan, a road town on the southern bank of the Imjin River.

Fighter bombers hit the area around Munsan, about 20 miles from Seoul.

In the mountainous east coast area wave after wave of fighters and bombers smashed into the Communists trying to move southwards. Four Chinese Communist armies and two North Korean corps on this front and in the centre may try to capture the important communications centre of Wonju, 55 miles southeast of Seoul, according to General MacArthur's Intelligence Section.

Fighting was reported at two places south of Hongchon, on the road from Chunchon to Wonju. At one place United Nations troops cleared out 500 Communists blocking the road south of Hongchon.

United Nations air strikes were claimed today to have damaged or destroyed 79 Communist-held towns.—Reuter.

TERROR IN SEOUL

Tokyo, Jan. 4.

The first news of the burning city of Seoul came from correspondents who flew from the emptying airfield to Japanese bases after their communications had gone dead.

Reuter correspondent Alex Valentine said that long lines of men and vehicles were moving from the city.

Terror spread in the doomed capital.

"Buildings suddenly burst into flames, and from the red glow spreading towards the sky embers fell onto those who stayed until the last," Valentine reported.

The roads leading south from the city were swarming with refugees and troops.

The flaming capital and flames on the United Nations defences about three miles north of Seoul threw into relief the straggling refugees as they fled from their "liberated" capital.

News of the burning city broke after a blanket of silence which covered the Seoul area during the day.—Reuter.



An obviously loud and confident appeal for LBW is made by Lindwall with Washbrook, the England opening bat, poised in front of the wicket after the ball had hit his pads. An incident during England's first innings in the second Test Match at Melbourne, showing how Washbrook lost his wicket.—Central Press.

Full Soviet Reply In Moscow Papers Without Comment

Moscow, Jan. 3.

All Moscow papers today published the full text of the Soviet reply to the Western note proposing "Big Four" talks, but without comment.

The papers devoted three columns of their second pages, the usual place for Foreign Ministry communiques, for the text of the reply to France and the French note to the Soviet Union on Dec. 22.

They indicated that these were "analogous" with the notes exchanged with the United States and Britain after the Soviet proposal two months ago calling for four-Power talks on Germany.

Observers here pointed out that the Soviet reply failed to mention the United Nations resolution about the desirability of four-Power talks, referred to in the Western notes.

This, in conjunction with the Soviet rejection of New York as a suitable place to hold preliminary talks, is taken to signify a Soviet desire not to have the talks associated with the United Nations but confined to matters judged purely within the competence of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

Diplomatic circles here expressed mingled feelings over the Soviet reply.

There was guarded optimism in French and British diplomatic circles but little satisfaction among American diplomats.

The Russians may prove to be more conciliatory if the Deputy Foreign Ministers discuss an agenda for a four-Power meeting, than a first reading of their note of Dec. 31 might suggest, diplomatic quarters in Paris thought today.

The French reply to the Russian note will be the same as that sent by America and Britain.

It is believed that the American Minister in Paris, Mr. Charles Bohlen, discussed the note with Foreign Office officials before he left for Washington tonight.

Diplomatic quarters think that the Russians are anxious to engage in negotiations, or resume a more normal manner of diplomatic relations, but they felt that prudence on the part of the Western Powers in considering their reply is called for.—Reuter.

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